



CHEVRON

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION

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Sick Marine finds marrow match after yearlong wait

BY LANCE CPL. JAMES GREEN
Chevron staff

After more than a year, a depot Marine was matched with a bone marrow donor July 7.

Staff Sgt. Gustavo Aleman Jr., administrative chief, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, received bone marrow from an infant's cord blood, which was donated by the child's parents at birth.

Cord blood comes from an infant's umbilical cord. When a parent donates it at birth, the blood is registered on the bone marrow registry. When information on the marrow that is listed matches a recipient, he is notified of the match and the transfusion can begin.

The marrow from a child's umbilical cord is a better alternative than from an actual donor, said Dr. Eileen Horner, medical doctor, staff health, Johnson Hall. This way the blood is less likely to have been exposed to any diseases.

Aleman found out about his disorder during a routine physical in Fallujah, Iraq, before rotating out to be placed on recruiting duty.

During the physical, the doctor discovered that both his white and red blood cell and platelet counts were low.

With this new discovery, Aleman was medically evacuated to Germany where he was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome, a form of leukemia.

Soon after, he was flown back to the U.S. and placed under a doctor's care at Naval Medical Center San Diego in June 2005. While at the hospital, Aleman received weekly blood transfusions and chemotherapy for eight months, yet there was no improvement with his condition.

Aleman received chemotherapy to wipe out his white blood cells to prevent them from fighting off the new, foreign cells after the bone marrow transplant.

The transplant was administered through an I.V. just like how a blood transfusion works, according to Aleman.

Aleman waited more than a year for a 20-minute procedure that may save his life.

After the surgery, he received transfusions twice a week to fight fatigue and has returned home since his transplant.

There is always a need for bone marrow donors, said Horner. In order to find a match, a variety of blood is needed.

With 13 years in the Marine Corps, Aleman has been selected for his next rank of gunnery sergeant. He plans on finishing out his career in the Marines thanks to his new bone marrow.



Maj. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, leaves the depot today while Brig. Gen. Angie Salinas comes to the depot as the new commanding general. *Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron*

General changes

Maj. Gen. Paxton bids farewell to depot, Western Recruiting Region

BY STAFF SGT. JEFF JANOWIEC
Chevron staff

While addressing a gathered crowd during a recent Morning Colors ceremony at Pendleton Hall, the commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region paused, which has become a routine over his three years at the depot, to allow the roaring noise of an outgoing airplane from nearby Lindbergh Field to fade away.

"We have scheduled some flyovers for you," said Maj. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr. jokingly to the families and friends of recruits graduating that day as Marines.

"I want you to know that your son or loved one has looked at that aircraft for the last 12-and-a-half weeks and that is his freedom bird and it is his ticket home," he said, with laughter following from the audience.

"So he's delighted that you're here now and he can actually go home," said Maj. Gen. Paxton as he gave a thumbs-up to them. "But he does indeed have something to be proud of; he has earned the coveted title of United States Marine."

Marines graduating from boot camp were the ultimate culmination and highlight of Maj. Gen. Paxton's time at the depot, which officially ends today during a change of command ceremony at 3:30 p.m. on the Joseph

H. Pendleton Hall lawn, where he will relinquish his command to Brig. Gen. Angela Salinas.

Brig. Gen. Salinas is coming to the depot from her previous duty as the chief of staff, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, Quantico, Va.

During Maj. Gen. Paxton's command, he oversaw the training of recruiters and drill instructors, and ensured a smooth transition in transforming more than 17,000 civilians a year into Marines. This was successfully accomplished all while caretaking and improving the depot itself.

"With great wisdom, the Marine Corps put both recruiting and recruit training under one general," said Col. Arthur J. Corbett, commanding officer of 12th Marine Corps District.

"The transformation process starts when an applicant raises his hand in the air and ends on the parade deck at graduation," said Corbett, a native of Philadelphia.

"The recruiting and recruit training process that (Maj. Gen.) Paxton oversaw took place in as near a frictionless environment as I can conceive," said Corbett. "Not only did he transform recruits into Marines, but he transformed the process itself by bringing recruiting and recruit training into a near seamless whole."

Having been a recruiting officer from 1985 to 1989,

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KEY VOLUNTEER

A depot wife has dedicated herself to educating military spouses.

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RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

Thirty-one-year-old graduate uses age and maturity to lead his fellow recruits.

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FLAG FOOTBALL

H&S Battalion continues gridiron rampage while Navy falls to 0-4.

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Health expo promotes wellness on depot

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER
Chevron staff

Marine Corps Community Services hosted a health expo near the depot field house July 19 to help people achieve a better quality of life by living a healthy lifestyle. More than 600 Marines, sailors and their families participated in the annual event. Various booths provided health foods and drinks while others offered free services for the participants. One booth offered yoga classes, others gave free massages and a cardiovascular workout session. “We came up with this idea three years ago to help promote health aboard the depot,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth J. Thompson, director of MCCS programs. “We try to make this event

bigger and better every year to attract more people.” This year, MCCS expanded the event by increasing the number of booths and adding extra giveaways, said Thompson, a 48-year-old native of Los Altos, Calif. Semper Fit deputy director, Kelley Sitar, said this year’s event was the best one they ever had. The feedback from the vendors was positive. They were all very pleased with the interactivity from the Marines. “Marines are required to stay healthy,” continued Thompson. “Whatever they learn here will make them better Marines.” The event was not targeted to Marines specifically, but to all persons aboard the depot, according to Chrissy Bruce, fitness program director for MCCS. Some service members partici-

pated in the event accompanied by their family members. Bruce also said part of the expo’s purpose was to inform people about the activities and programs aboard the depot, as well as the programs in the community. Sgt. Durrand Lardge, recruiter student who came to the event to enjoy the prizes and promotions that were provided by the event sponsors, said he thinks there should be more events like this on the depot. The information provided at the expo helped him learn some new things about dieting, and he thinks it can help people who are having trouble with their health, added the 27-year-old native of St. Louis. For more information on MCCS sponsored fitness programs, call Bruce at (619) 524-8465.



Natalie Francisco has taken several responsibilities on the depot including coordinating the LINKS program. Pfc. Charlie Chavez/Chevron

Military spouse becomes key to depot volunteers

BY LANCE CPL. KAITLYN M. SCARBORO
Chevron staff

Known for being shy and reserved by her colleagues, Natalie Francisco, depot Family Team Building coordinator, has dedicated herself to the orientation and education of depot military spouses. As a coordinator for the depot’s Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program, a sponsor for the depot and Western Recruiting Region Key Volunteers program and other military-spouse volunteer programs, Natalie has touched the lives of many spouses through her desire to help those in need. Her dedication to family began as a child. Living with her maternal grandparents in Belize, Central America, Natalie was surrounded with a neighborhood of relatives. Her grandmother would spend hours cooking a large feast for her children and when dinner was served, Natalie would visit with some of her 13 aunts and uncles at the dinner table. Natalie’s grandparents had two sets of children, one set the age of her mother. The other set of children attended the same schools at the same time as Natalie.

“I went to school with my aunts and uncles. I’m actually older than two of my aunts,” said Natalie. “I was the first girl on my mom’s side to graduate high school. It was a big deal for my family.” Though it was a common practice for girls in the community

SEE **Key, pg. 3**

BMP Marines spend an outing at Petco Park

BY PFC. CHARLIE CHAVEZ
Chevron staff

Six Marines from the depot’s Basic Marine Platoon and the Single Marine Program coordinator attended the Philadelphia Phillies and San Diego Padres game June 19. Tickets were purchased by the SMP coordinator, Lowell Muenchau, for single service members to enjoy a day away from the depot at Petco Park in downtown San Diego. Sgt. Manny Silva, BMP sergeant, particularly basked in the atmosphere of the ball park.

“It’s very nice to be out here,” said Silva. “I find it to be a good time away from the office to mingle with the Marines and have outside-of-work conversations.” Even though the Padres lost the game in the ninth inning after Bobby Abreu hit a two-run double to win the game 5-4, the Marines enjoyed the experience. Not as many participants as were expected came along on the trip, and a few tickets that were prepaid were unused. “I guess there was just a lack of interest from the Marines,” said Muenchau. “I want to buy Chargers tickets later on, but I don’t know if people want to come out.”

Turnout for recent SMP trips has been lower than in the past. Marines that attend the events are typically the same five or six people, said Pfc. Ryan J. Crumme, finance clerk. Marines are the biggest tool to spread the word around about the trips and to help generate more interest and participation. The SMP provides recreational activities that appeal to the specific nature of Marines, said Crumme. The next SMP event is to the Magic Mountain theme park in Los Angeles Aug. 19. To join the Single Marine Program council or to voice ideas, contact Muenchau at (619) 524-8240.

BRIEFS

Military testing offered at RAB

Recruit Administration Branch (RAB) offers the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT), Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB), and Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) tests to all military members (active and reservists). Testing is held every Friday at 0800. Contact Mr. Rahmani or Mrs. Walters at (619) 524-6123 to schedule an appointment.

Online National Security Personnel System course

Now is your opportunity to familiarize yourself with the National Security Personnel System (NSPS). Employees are encouraged to take this online course and print the certificate to be included into your DCPDS training record. Please drop off a copy of your certificate at the HRO building 7 West. Military supervisors and managers are also asked to drop a copy of the certificate. The Department of Defense (DoD) web-based course, NSPS 101 is now available at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/nsps101>. This 45-60 minute course provides an excellent overview of NSPS, including classification, conversion, compensation, performance management and workforce shaping. One notable feature of the course is a conversion tool with salary calculator, where employees can determine their new career group, pay schedule, pay band and an estimate of their within grade increase buy-in. You are welcome to send any questions you may have via e-mail to Aixa Bueltel at aixa.bueltel@usmc.mil.

HRO positions available

The Depot’s Civil Service Human Resources Office is currently recruiting for several positions. To be considered, applicants must be within the area of consideration and have their resume in the HRSC-SW “CHARTS” system for the series. The following link will guide applicants in submitting their resume: <http://www.donhr.navy.mil/Jobs/default.asp>. All positions are permanent unless otherwise specified.

Upcoming SMP events

The depot Single Marine Program has tickets to the San Diego Padres vs. San Francisco Giants available for ten dollars. The game is at Petco Park and is scheduled for Aug. 17, at 12:35 p.m. For more information, please call (619) 524-8240 or send an e-mail to muenchau@usmc-mccs.org

Bay Fest 2006

This year’s Bay Fest Carnival theme is Mardi Gras, and the event will be held Aug. 12 from noon to 4 p.m. There will be live bands, hypnotists, Brazilian dancers, stilt walkers and palm readers. There will be lots of fun and games for children of all ages. For more information, please call (619) 725-6400.

SEND BRIEFS TO jess.levens@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

Joy of giving: Blood saves lives

BY LANCE CPL. JAMES GREEN
Chevron staff

I recently had the pleasure of donating blood during a blood drive held by Naval Medical Center San Diego here at the depot. “Pleasure” may sound like a weird word describing a needle penetrating your vein and sucking your blood; but once you get past that fear, there is no other word to illustrate helping others. I donated blood in high school just because it got me out of class for an hour, but now I do it for another reason. Eight months ago my daughter underwent a heart surgery that was performed to correct the position of her left pulmonary artery. During the procedure, she received a blood transfusion that saved her life. I now donate blood every chance I get just so I know in the back of my head that I, too, can

save a life. Not just the life of my now one-year-old daughter, who I was told wouldn’t make it past four months, but any life. Whether it be a fellow Marine, civilian or complete stranger, there is nothing negative about saving lives. The thought of giving 30 minutes of one day every 56 days to give someone a second chance at life is an unquestionable act of kindness, and in my opinion, it should come second nature, especially for Marines. Right now, San Diego as a whole is going through a shortage of blood and platelets due to excessive injuries. The blood donated through NMCS is given to Department of Defense employees and dependents overseas and stateside. Instead of waiting for a situation to hit home, you can donate blood to be prepared in case of an emergency. As Americans, it is our duty to look out for the well-being of one another. It’s what sets us apart

from other countries. All it takes to ensure our service members and their families will have the necessary blood in an urgent situation is for each eligible donor to take the time out and think of others. I am reminded daily of the importance of giving blood every time I see the scar on my daughter’s chest. Then I look up and see the smile on her face and that is what drives me to give back what was given to my little girl. The bottom line is only we as humans have the power to donate the blood that is needed to preserve the life of others. Human blood cannot be duplicated or imitated. So against all the rules of writing, I am going to end this with a question. If not you, then who? Blood can be donated at NMCS or on the depot during one of the scheduled blood drives. For more information on where and how to donate blood, call the blood donor center, NMCS at (619) 532-6650.

Key, from pg. 3

to marry at 13 years old, Natalie said she was not ready to settle down and continued her education. She earned a tourism scholarship to America, where she received an associate’s degree in restaurant management, setting the example for her younger female relatives to continue their education before marriage. Later, Natalie used her degree in her aunt’s restaurant and catering business in Belize. Throughout her childhood, Natalie spent her time reading, playing marbles and climbing trees on the beaches of Belize with her best friend and neighbor, Mark. Later, after Mark joined the United States Marine Corps and Natalie graduated from college, they married and Natalie’s world was turned upside down. She had no idea what to expect of America off the college campus or in the military. “There was no Family Team Building when I became a spouse,” said Natalie. “When I first came to the states I had no family here. It was just me and Mark.” Frightened to leave her house and step into a completely different world that she didn’t understand, Natalie almost never left her Virginia house. Her home was not on base and she was unsure how to drive on the streets, how to write a check or how to purchase anything. Natalie didn’t understand the way America worked, she said. Mark worked constantly and rarely had time to help her with the simpler things. Through their marriage, Natalie’s friendship with Mark continued to flourish and Mark felt blessed to have a companion who gave up so much for his career. “Our friendship is one of the most important parts of our marriage and it’s part of what makes our marriage successful,” said her husband, Master Sgt. Mark R. Francisco, operations chief, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The Marine Corps strengthened their marriage through trial eventually pulling the pair apart during one of the hardest times for them to be alone. After giving birth to her first of two children, it wasn’t long before Natalie was left to take care of her son alone. “Kyle was one year old, and Mark got orders to Okinawa. I couldn’t go because I didn’t have my green card,” said Natalie. Natalie was still settling in to her new lifestyle when she lost her military dependant identification card. She had relied on it for entrance to the base where she lived and worked and as her only form of residency or ID. Unable to get a hold of her husband by phone because he was training, she was scared, confused, frantic and hopeless. She was unable to write a check for two weeks, and was nearly out of diapers for her son until her husband was able returned her phone call and ship all of her paperwork to receive a new ID. Natalie vowed to herself that she would never let another foreign-born spouse experience such anguish if she could help it. “It’s important for us to be self-sufficient,” said Natalie about military spouses. “I never met a Marine that worked nine-to-five every day. You have to learn to cut the lawn yourself, change the oil in your car ... You have to learn to do some of the stuff you take for granted they’re around.” When she moved to MCB Camp Lejuene, N.C., with Mark, Natalie decided she couldn’t stay in the house anymore and took her first steps to being a more confident Marine wife and helping other foreign-born spouses. Natalie spent her time with any base spouse-support group she could find and volunteered at the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society nearly every day of the week. One day while Natalie spoke with her friend Victoria Green, a sergeant major’s wife who worked at the society, Natalie explained how unhappy she was about her past experiences. Green advised her to go out and make a change. Natalie

has allowed Green’s advice to encourage her family programs, and works tirelessly to help other. “As much as I work with her, it’s hard for me to conceive how she gets it all done,” said depot Deputy Semper Fit Director, Kelley L. Sitar. “She works until the job’s done.” After several meetings at different base clubs, Natalie and a friend came up with the idea to start an organization to help welcome and orient foreign-born spouses. Together they taught check-writing classes, self-defense classes and tried to help the spouses become more comfortable living in America. “This is a wonderful life. I’m not going to say this life isn’t hard, but there’s a lot of advantages to this life,” said Natalie. Now, as the depot and Western Recruiting Region’s Family Team Building coordinator, Natalie contributes hours of devotion to helping new spouses prepare for the trials they will face on the drill field or out in the recruiting districts. Though she started her work on the depot while her husband was a drill instructor, she has stayed here after he left because she knew her experiences were valuable. “I don’t think she’s replaceable,” said Sitar. “They would probably have to get two people to replace her.”

Growing up, Natalie admired her teachers, who were Peace Corps volunteers from different countries, for their dedication to the women and children who needed it most. She always dreamed of traveling to a different country and helping those in need. She never realized it would be a country so close to her own. After 23 years in the Marine Corps, Natalie is unsure how much longer she expects to provide assistance for spouses. However, she is grateful for the opportunity to use her experience to help those in need. Though her career started under the impulse to help foreign-born spouse because she was one, Natalie has managed to make a mark on the lives of spouses all around the Marine Corps.

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Maj. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region addresses guests at a reception before a Marine Band San Diego concert last July. *Sgt. Jared M. Padula/Combat Camera*

Paxton, from pg. 1

Maj. Gen. Paxton has had experience in the systematic recruiting of the all-volunteer military strategy that started in 1973.

He understood then and during his tour at the depot, that there were necessary elements in recruiting for the Marine Corps. He said individuals volunteering for service are academically sound, physically strong and morally straight. These elements afford the Marine Corps the best possible building blocks so the drill instructors can take young men and women and make them into Marines.

“I can tell you unequivocally that we are getting the best quality that we need for today’s Marine Corps and for combat in today’s world,” said Maj. Gen. Paxton, who hails from Broomall, Pa.

There were major challenges posed to recruiting during Maj. Gen. Paxton’s tour at the depot of which he dealt with through positive and consistent leadership and a willingness to put good ideas from the field to use.

“Despite a protracted, media criticized war, when the recruiting service was reduced to 85 percent of manning level, Gen. Paxton led his Marines with an optimistic confidence that inspired us all,” said Corbett. “He trusted his Marines to do what was right, and led us with energetic example.

“He is the kind of leader no one ever wants to let down. His solution to problems was to look for additional tools—not to break Marine backs trying to do the same thing the same way.

“Videos like Educator Speak and the (Musician Enlistment Option Program) video reflected his commitment to innovation and the ability to move good ideas to become new tools,” said Corbett.

Good ideas weren’t limited to recruiting. Maj. Gen. Paxton accepted the X-2 Program, which was designed to decrease the number of recruit injuries and was spearheaded by the preceding depot commanding general, Lt. Gen. Jan C. Huly, deputy commandant of Plans, Policies & Operations, Headquarters Marine Corps.

A few years ago, there was an awareness that hundreds of recruits per year were being sent to the Basic Marine Platoon due to injuries. According to Maj. Gen. Paxton, these Marines worked hard to get through boot camp, but weren’t physically prepared to move on to the School of Infantry at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

After the program had been going for about six to eight months, the findings were identified as mostly lower extremity injuries and stress fractures caused from the Crucible, which was at Week 10 of training, followed directly by the final physical fitness test and final drill.

He mentioned that many recruits were not used to the combat boots or the hectic physical exertion.

Because of these injuries, the Crucible, not having lost any of its potency of nearly 40 obstacles over 54 hours of sleep deprivation, was moved up in training by a few weeks. To give the recruits’ bodies time to recover after the Crucible, they began to train in the pool and were fitted for uniforms instead of marching constantly and preparing for a rigorous PFT.

“We found that there was a dramatic decrease in the number of stress fractures when we did that,” said Maj. Gen. Paxton. “Consequently our population in BMP dropped significantly. It went from 20s, 30s and 40s to two, three and four (per cycle).

“It’s a big improvement and that’s why we’re making more Marines, better Marines and we’re saving tax dollars because we don’t have broken Marines waiting to get back into the pipeline here,” he said.

Maj. Gen. Paxton was involved with the transformation process of recruits, yet his influence was not directly on them; rather it was on the leadership and the training which was responsible for that transformation.

“His key influence on the transformation process

was the legendary Marine Corps drill instructor who is a strategic asset to our Corps,” said Col. Robert O. Sinclair, commanding officer, Recruit Training Regiment.

“He has a personable leadership style,” said Sinclair, a native of Seattle. “He made everybody he spoke to, from a recruit at the Emblem Ceremony to the senior leadership, at ease when talking to us.”

The commanding general’s enthusiasm for his work never waned. He understood the critical aspects of making Marines and the teamwork required between the recruiters and recruit trainers for success.

“The transformation from civilian to recruit and recruit to Marine could not be accomplished without a coordinated and unified effort,” said Col. Mark Callihan, chief of staff for the depot and WRR. “The commanding general was central to that taking place.

“When I was the commanding officer of RTR, he continually reminded us of not only our specific mission responsibilities, but how we could help the other guy make mission,” said Callihan, a native of Edmond, Okla. “We were successful here because of the team.

“He provided guidance and trusted the commanders to make things happen,” he said. “His supervision was accomplished without being overly directive; in other words you felt empowered. Empowerment generated enthusiasm for the work, and enthusiasm generated a very positive work environment. The cycle continues uninterrupted.”

Maj. Gen. Paxton inspired others with the history he espoused.

According to Barbara McCurtis, director of the MCRD Command Museum, whenever he told a historical story, those listening knew it was accurate.

She also said that Maj. Gen. Paxton was the first commanding general of the depot, that she knows of, who ensured people called each building by its name rather than by its number in order to preserve and honor the integrity of the Marine Corps heritage.

The tour that Maj. Gen. Paxton spent at the depot was a successful one. But he said that success came through the teamwork of all the Marines, both officer and enlisted, who were involved in recruiting and the recruit training process.

He said that WRR and the depot have had 36 straight months of success. It was going on long before he arrived and will go on long after he departs today to his next duty station as the commanding general of 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

“I have tremendously enjoyed and benefited, both personally and professionally, from this three year tour,” said Maj. Gen. Paxton. “It’s truly been one of the highlights of a very fortunate career for me.

“I applaud the individual and collective work of each and every member in this command: Marine, sailor, (Coast Guardsmen) and civilian Marine. They all do great things. And I have been proud to be a part of their team since they accomplish an important mission in our Global War on Terrorism,” he said.

“I will feel good about having been a part, just a small part, of this recruiting and recruit training process and I will also feel pride forever for those great Marines who make that process happen every day, particularly the canvassing recruiters and drill instructors,” added Maj. Gen. Paxton.

As he leaves, the staff at the depot and throughout WRR will miss Maj. Gen. Paxton for the leadership he provided and the effort he made to keep the Marine Corps thriving and moving forward with strength.

“Trust and nerve are leadership qualities that reflect depth of character,” said Corbett. “They inspire an environment that promotes risk taking and entrepreneurship. Gen. Paxton is a motivational leader who had the trust and nerve to lead in an environment of great adversity and difficult circumstances. He was the right man for a difficult time. Few others could have survived where he helped us thrive.”



Maj. Gen. Paxton throws the opening pitch before a San Diego Padres game. *Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron*



Maj. Gen. Paxton stands with his hand over his heart while the Star-spangled Banner plays before the 2005 St. Patrick’s Day fun run. *Jess Levens/Chevron*



With Gunnery Sgt. Christopher A. Walker at his side, Maj. Gen. Paxton speaks to runners before last year’s Boot Camp Challenge. *Jess Levens/Chevron*



Maj. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region, donates blood as a worker prepares Sgt. Maj. Frank E. Pulley, right, former depot and Western Recruiting Region sergeant major, during Naval Medical Center San Diego’s Bloodmobile visit outside McDougal Hall Aug. 30, 2005. *Cpl. Robert Heagle/Combat Camera*

RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

DESTINY IN DELTA

Determined Co. D recruit says he was born to be a Marine

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT W. BEAVER
Chevron staff

At the age of 31 and the oldest recruit in Company D, Pfc. Gordon W. R. Mobley, Platoon 1007, proved himself during recruit training to have the leadership traits and principles that Marines are known for.

With Mobley being more mature than other recruits a decade more or younger, he set the example for his peers by proving that age is just a number. His drill instructors say he exceeded over his fellow recruits in all aspects of recruit training.

As a father or older brother type figure, fellow recruits often looked to Mobley for guidance through boot camp.

“It’s human nature that people look to their elders for maturity and guidance,” said Mobley. “In a way, I’m almost forced into a leadership position.”

Mobley said he tried his best to lead by example, but sometimes it was difficult. During barracks cleanup, he found it particularly hard to lead in this manner. He said it bothered him that he was not allowed to help his fellow recruits clean the squad bay since he was in a position to only supervise and give orders.

The leadership traits Mobley displayed throughout recruit training were seeds planted at a young age by his father, who was also a Marine.

Mobley, a Fort Worth, Texas native, remembers how his father always spoke about the Marine Corps while he was growing up. He said the only thing his father loved more than the Corps was his family. This inspired Mobley to follow in his footsteps.

He tried to do exactly as his father by enlisting in the Corps after high school, but his father didn’t give his blessing because he wanted his son to go to college first.

Mobley wrestled for five-and-half years while he was in college, where he earned a Bachelor’s degree in chemistry.

“He showed excellent leadership while he was in wrestling,” said Warner Mobley, Gordon’s father. “He was always willing to help out the junior team members.”

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James M. McCoy

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James M. McCoy was adviser to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force on matters concerning welfare, effective utilization and progress of the enlisted members of the Air Force. He was the sixth chief master sergeant appointed to this ultimate non-commissioned officer position.

Chief Master Sgt. McCoy was born in Creston, Iowa, and he graduated from Maur Hill High School, Atchison, Kan. in 1948. He entered the U.S. Air Force in January 1951 after attending St. Benedict’s College in Atchison and St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Centenary College of Louisiana in 1966. He is an honor graduate of the Second Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Academy and graduated with the first class of the U.S. Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Gunter Air Force Station, Ala. in March 1973.

After basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, McCoy served with the Air Defense Command as a radar operator and instructor until 1956. He then returned to Lackland to become an instructor in the basic military training program. In 1957, he transferred to Clark Air Base, Philippines, where he served as

At the age of 26, Mobley thought he may be too old to live out his dream of becoming a Marine, so he started a career in the food manufacturing industry. The company he worked for produces various sauces used at the depot’s recruit mess hall, according to Mobley.

He excelled at his job and moved into the product research and development department.

“Because I figured I was too old for the Marine Corps, I tried to pursue other options, but they turned out to be too monotonous,” said Mobley. “I had a personal physical trainer at the time who helped me get back on track.”

Mobley was curious about his trainer’s past because of his high level of physical fitness. His trainer told him that he was a former Marine and that it was still possible to enlist with an age waiver.

“I knew it wasn’t just coincidence that he was a Marine,” said Mobley. “I looked into it more and a recruiter told me I could do it.”

Mobley had higher aspirations of becoming an officer. However, since he was an age waiver, he was told that he couldn’t be commissioned as an officer. His recruiter also told him that he may have a better chance for qualification if he enlisted and applied for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program, a program designed to give enlisted Marines the opportunity to become an officer while staying active duty and attending college full time.

Mobley enlisted in the Marine Corps as a Reserve nuclear, biological and chemical specialist. He was the platoon guide until he injured his hip during field week at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

“I was trying to keep up with the drill instructors, which is not an easy thing to do when you’re carrying a heavy pack, rifle and a guidon,” said Mobley. “When we made it to our destination, I could barely walk.”

Medical personnel recommended Mobley to be dropped from training and be put on crutches for a month. Although he struggled through training, tests came back stating that Mobley had no major problems, said Mobley.

Mobley’s drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Benjamin J. Carver, said Mobley has excelled over the younger



Pfc. Gordon W. R. Mobley, Platoon 1007, Company D, folds his bed sheets into a six-inch fold during downtime July 25 at his barracks. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

recruits in all areas of recruit training. He is definitely a leader and his fellow recruits look up to him.

“My son was born to be a Marine,” said Warner. “He has always had the right stuff, and I think he will be a better Marine than I was.”



the Air Force Outstanding Airman of the Year with bronze service star.

Active in many business and civic organizations, he has served on several councils and board of directors within the Omaha, Neb., area and on the national level. He has served two terms as the Air Force Association national president and two terms as its chairman of the board.

Chief McCoy and his wife of 54 years, Kathleen, have eight children. Their eldest daughter, Deborah, is married to Maj. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region.



DELTA COMPANY



To combat the summer heat, drill instructors use emergency water points along the physical fitness test course to keep running recruits cool. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

FIRST RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. B. D. Kerl
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. A. Spadaro
Chaplain
Lt. Cmdr. M. G. Mueller
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. C. Bull

COMPANY D

Commanding Officer
Capt. W. W. Marlowe
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. J. W. Senn

SERIES 1001

Series Commander
Capt. J. Vargas
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. J. M. Cantu

SERIES 1005

Series Commander
1st Lt. R. P. Nelson
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. H. J. Sotorodriguez

PLATOON 1001

Senior Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. J. W. Frantz
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. S. A. Anderson
Staff Sgt. B. T. Holmes
Sgt. J. W. Hollon
Sgt. J. K. Ortega

Pvt. K. R. Alden
Pvt. C. L. Allen
Pvt. A. J. Applewhite
Pvt. J. L. Arnett
Pvt. B. P. Avis-Bowing
Pfc. B. T. Boeddeker
Pvt. G. T. Bowman
Pfc. C. N. Buckles-Haley
Pvt. D. L. Burke
Pvt. E. Burrows-Ellenber
Pfc. E. E. Cervantes
Pfc. J. Cervantes Jr.
Pvt. J. Cha
Pvt. J. P. Clark
Pfc. S. A. Daggs
Pvt. R. E. Delgadillo Avila
Pfc. B. J. Dewey
Pvt. A. W. Fasano
Pfc. J. G. Fife
Pvt. C. J. Finck
Pvt. D. A. Flavin
Pvt. K. P. Friedericksen
Pvt. J. W. Fulencheik
*Pfc. E. J. Gamez
Pvt. M. D. Gomez
Pfc. D. R. Green

PLATOON 1005

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. D. C. North
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. R. H. Johnson
Staff Sgt. L. A. Romero
Sgt. G. S. Williams
Sgt. E. L. Zych

Pfc. B. Ascencio Jr.
Pvt. K. R. Atole
Pvt. R. W. Birkes
Pfc. J. D. Boggs
Pvt. D. C. Bouvier
Pvt. R. P. Bourdelaix
Pvt. D. O. Cameron
Pfc. N. M. Corbett
Pvt. B. L. Croman

Pvt. Z. J. Davis
Pvt. E. T. Dobbs
Pvt. J. A. Enamorado
*Pfc. S. Fredenburg
Pfc. C. G. Girard
Pfc. K. D. Green
Pfc. C. D. Gutierrez
Pfc. R. Guzman Jr.
Pvt. D. J. Haffner
Pvt. L. D. Harris Jr.
Pfc. M. A. Herig
Pfc. S. K. Heseman
*Pfc. S. P. Kishell
Pvt. K. R. Kullman
Pfc. S. H. Lahera III
Pvt. M. R. Lane
Pvt. E. J. Laud
Pfc. J. L. Loch
Pvt. L. Mancillas

Pvt. C. V. Martin
Pvt. D. E. Maupin Jr.
Pvt. E. Mercado
Pvt. A. M. Nichols
Pfc. D. Noll Jr.
Pvt. K. A. Prater
Pvt. V. R. Proa
Pvt. J. D. Robbins
Pvt. R. Saenz
Pvt. J. Salas
Pvt. G. G. Scholz
Pvt. J. M. Schroeder
Pfc. A. C. Smith
Pvt. J. L. Tate
Pvt. H. E. Tejeda
Pfc. C. Torres
*Pfc. M. R. Van Deren
Pvt. N. J. Wilber

PLATOON 1006

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. D. Yazzie
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. S. A. Leonardson
Sgt. M. A. Daquattro
Sgt. T. P. Gallagher
Sgt. C. E. Murch

Pvt. C. W. Atwood
Pvt. L. L. Ballou
Pfc. C. M. Blake
*Pfc. Y. M. Booker
*Pfc. D. P. Brzeskiewicz
Pvt. J. B. Clements
Pvt. C. A. Denzier
Pvt. R. A. Esquivel
Pfc. B. C. Harris
Pvt. C. J. Kluser

Pvt. F. J. Lara
Pvt. N. C. Lewis
Pvt. S. P. Lockard
Pvt. J. A. Locke
Pvt. W. A. McNeill
Pfc. D. D. Montgomery
Pvt. E. J. Mortenson
Pvt. D. M. Pressler
*Pfc. A. M. Queen
Pvt. R. S. Rambo
Pvt. R. D. Randall
Pvt. T. M. Richards
Pvt. R. Rivera Jr.
Pvt. C. E. Romero
Pvt. J. D. Ross
Pvt. V. Saengaly
Pfc. D. J. Santee
Pvt. S. G. Sierra
Pvt. E. Sierra II

Pvt. B. V. Smith
Pvt. D. J. Stein
Pfc. D. A. Talbot
Pvt. B. T. Tsuffis
Pvt. G. Vargas-Lara
Pvt. M. J. Weinrauch
Pfc. C. S. White
Pvt. J. C. White
Pvt. R. E. Worwood
Pvt. H. K. Young
Pvt. A. M. Zaletanski

PLATOON 1007

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. F. Escalante

Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. B. J. Carver
Staff Sgt. J. DeLosRios
Staff Sgt. J. Ramirez
Sgt. J. C. Fyffe

Pfc. J. D. Camarillo
Pvt. B. W. Cole
Pvt. R. J. Dent
Pfc. A. J. Henken
Pvt. T. A. Lisenko
Pfc. D. A. Manginell
Pfc. J. D. Marshall
Pvt. I. Martinez
Pvt. A. Mendoza Jr.
Pfc. E. L. Meyer
Pvt. N. J. Meyers
Pvt. A. A. Meza III
*Pfc. N. P. Mezak
Pfc. G. W. Mobley
Pvt. J. M. Moore
Pvt. R. S. Moore
Pvt. V. A. Mora
Pvt. D. L. Odell
Pfc. F. E. Oseguera
Pvt. J. Otto
Pfc. W. J. Parris
Pvt. M. J. Parson
Pvt. A. J. Peterson
Pvt. T. A. Pfautz
Pvt. D. B. Phengsy
Pvt. J. D. Porter
Pfc. J. T. Regelin
Pfc. C. G. Reynolds
Pvt. G. L. Reynolds
Pvt. J. C. Rogers
Pvt. S. P. Russell
Pvt. D. T. Spence
Pfc. J. A. Stamper
Pvt. D. N. Starmer Jr.
Pvt. G. M. Stevenson
Pvt. S. S. Synstaelen
*Pfc. C. W. Walpole
Pvt. P. J. Weeks
Pvt. A. S. Williams

*Meritorious promotion



Pfc. Steven P. Kishell, Platoon 1005, Company D, runs to his gear after completing the dead hang pull-ups portion of the company’s mock physical fitness test at the depot’s PT field July 21. All recruits must pass a final PFT before graduation. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron



Provost Marshal's Office quarterback Sgt. Jeffrey S. Beck scans the field for a receiver against 12th Marine Corps District in Commanding General's Cup play. Pfc. Charlie Chavez/Chevron photos

Red hot H&S stays perfect in Cup race, improves to 4-0

BY PFC. CHARLIE CHAVEZ
Chevron staff

An eruption of cheers ignited from the sidelines of the field as Marines, sailors, Coast Guardsmen and civilians competed during the third and fourth weeks of the Commanding General's Cup flag football season July 18 and 25.

Leading the Red Division, Headquarters and Service Battalion stands as the only undefeated team, with a record of 4-0, after shutting out the Communication Information Systems Division team 18-0 in the third week and slaughtering Marine Corps Community Services team 40-0 in the fourth week.

Recruit Training Regiment's 3rd Bn. trails H&S Bn. as second in the Red Division with a record of 2-1 after a third-week bye and pummeling CISD 20-6 in the fourth week.

"I think if we play H&S later in the season we will have a lot better game than we did in the beginning," said Staff Sgt. Francisco J. Corona, 3rd Bn. receiver. "We are a solid team now with set players determined to come out and play our best."

The CISD and Coast Guard teams are tied for third place with 1-2 records after both teams beat MCCR. MCCR claims fourth place with a staggering 0-3.

In second place among nine teams, the Provost Marshal's Office leads the Gold Division with a 4-1 record after closing on RTR's Special Training Company 12-0 in week three, and two close games with District 7-6 and 12-6 in week four.

Practicing twice a week, the PMO team attributes their wins to a well-rounded offense and defense, and the personal effort of every player. They anticipate that H&S Bn. will be the team to beat in the championships, said Sgt. Jeffrey S. Beck, PMO, halfback.

District follows PMO in the Gold Division with a 3-2 record, after bringing down the hammer on the Navy's Dental-Medical team 14-0 in the third week and losing to PMO in the fourth. STC is currently in third after losing in week three to PMO and taking a forfeit from Dental Medical team during week four. The Dental-Medical team is currently 0-4.

The CG's Cup flag football championships are scheduled to take place on the depot soccer field on Tuesday at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Rachel Dickinson at (619) 524-0548.



Communication Information Systems Division's Cpl. Matthew E. Broesevangroenou runs the ball against 3rd Recruit Training Battalion in a 20-6 loss. Third Bn. came rested from a bye week to snag the easy victory.